



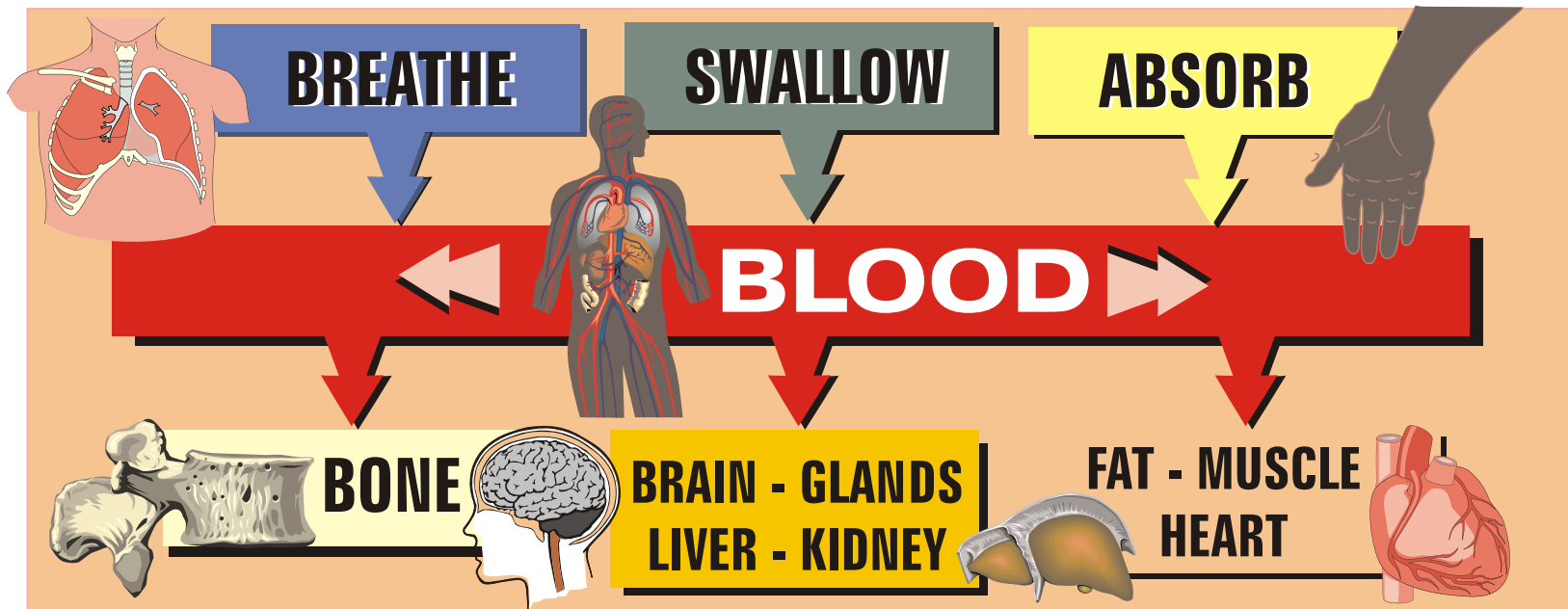
Health Hazards

ROADWAY SAFETY



How Do Health Hazards Harm Us?

Toxic substances can enter the body by 3 routes.



The effects of toxic substances may be

- **Short-term or acute:** effects such as eye irritation or dizziness
- **Delayed or chronic:** effects such as cancer or chronic lung disease



How Harmful Is Silica?

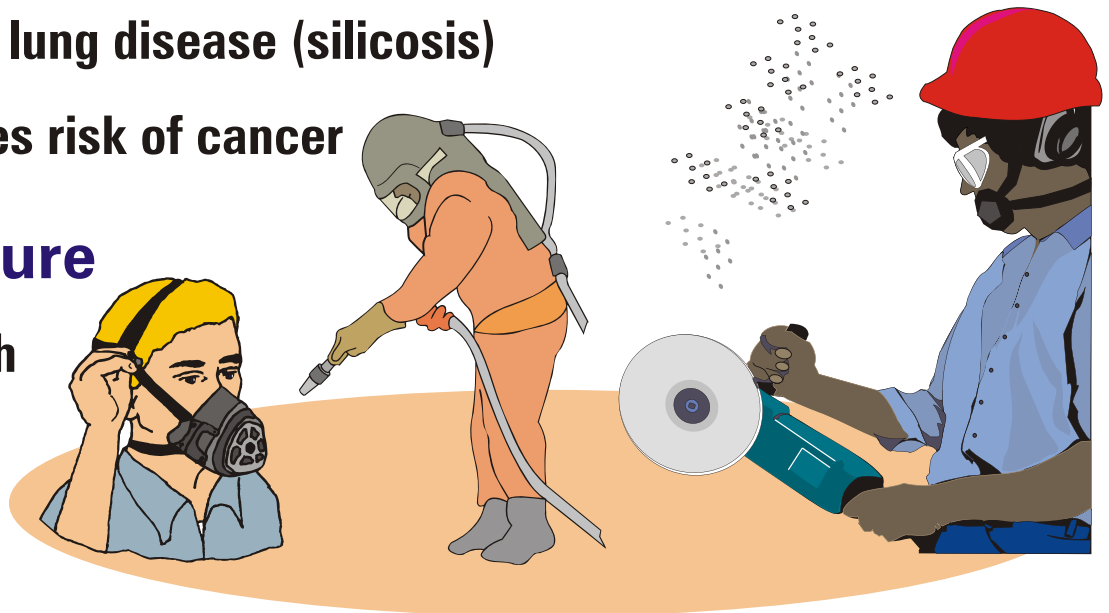
Silica is common but can be very harmful.

Silica dust

- Found in many construction dusts such as concrete, rock
- High exposure tasks include sand blasting, rock drilling, cutting concrete
- Long-term exposure leads to lung disease (silicosis)
- Long-term exposure increases risk of cancer

To prevent silica exposure

- Reduce airborne dust through ventilation and wetting
- Use NIOSH-approved toxic dust respirators





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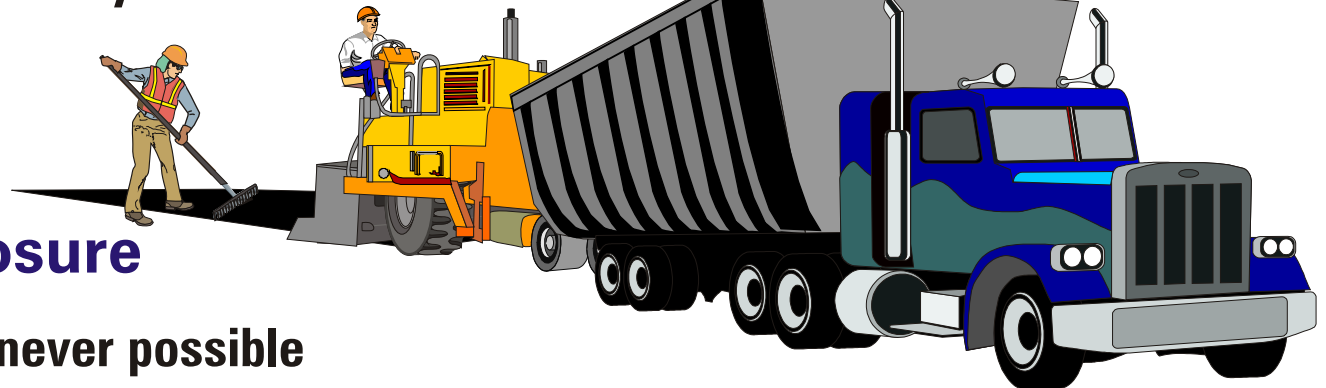
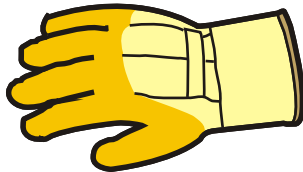


How Harmful Is Asphalt?

Asphalt fumes and skin contact can be harmful.

Asphalt

- Fumes may cause eye, respiratory irritation
- Hot asphalt can severely burn skin



To prevent exposure

- Work upwind whenever possible
- Maintain a lower temperature to minimize fumes
- Use ventilation on paving machines
- Wear gloves, long sleeves to prevent skin contact





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How Harmful Is Wet Concrete?

It can cause dermatitis and skin burns.

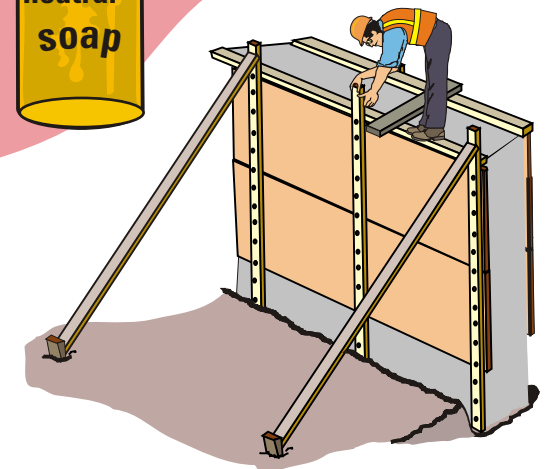
Dermatitis can be

- Irritation from caustic chemicals in concrete
- Allergic reaction



Prevent dermatitis and burns

- Wear long-sleeved gloves
- Keep concrete out of your boots
- Change gloves/boots when contaminated inside
- Wash hands in clean water with pH-neutral soap
- Protect cuts with bandages
- Wear eye protection





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How Harmful Is Lead?

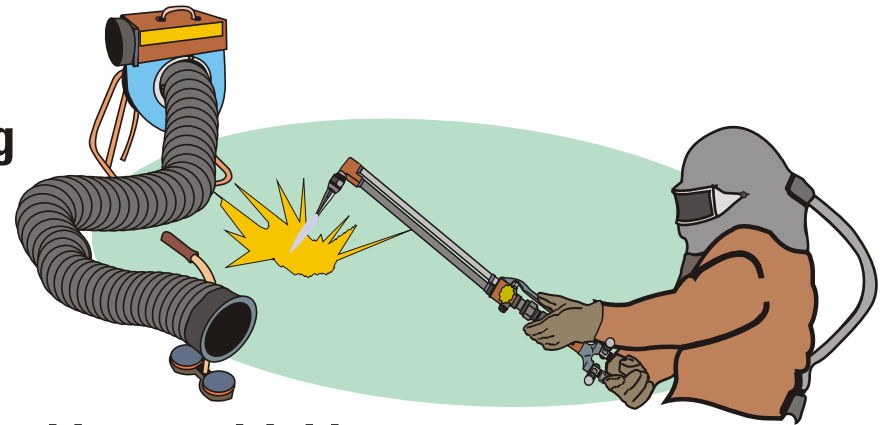
Lead damages nervous and reproductive systems.

Lead

- Toxic metal found in paints on bridge renovation
- Dust and fume can be inhaled or ingested during sandblasting, welding, cutting
- Dust can be carried home and poison your family

To prevent lead poisoning

- Remove paint before cutting or welding
- Use long-handled torches for cutting
- Use local exhaust ventilation
- Wear the proper respirator
- Wash face and hands before eating, smoking, or drinking
- Shower and change clothes before leaving work
- Get your blood lead tested periodically to assure you are not overexposed





Health Hazards

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Are There Other Health Hazards?

Most can be avoided with basic protections.

Other hazards include

- Common substances such as solvents and CO
- Special products such as sealants, paints

Avoiding health hazards means

- Reviewing the product Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Limiting exposure as much as possible
- Staying upwind of hazardous exposures
- Making sure that hazard controls such as fans are working
- Wearing protective equipment such as respirators, skin coverings
- Promptly reporting any health complaints to your supervisor

